DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1999 . . . S. 2057. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 88-4

SYNOPSIS: As passed, S. 2057, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1999, will authorize \$270.6 billion in budget authority for national defense programs (this amount is equal to the requested level, and is in accordance with the budget agreement of last year). In real terms, spending will be \$2.9 billion less than last year. As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), defense spending will be just 3.1 percent, which will be the lowest level since 1940. Defense spending has declined steadily since 1986, when it was 6.5 percent of GDP. Details are provided below.

Procurement authorizations totaling \$49.8 billion will be enacted, including:

- \$2.901 billion for 13 C-17 aircraft;
- \$2.897 billion for 30 F/A-18E/F tactical fighter aircraft;
- \$2.679 billion for 3 DDG-51 destroyers;
- \$2.003 billion for the second new attack submarine (NSSN);
- \$785.3 million for 2 F-22 aircraft and for advance procurement for 6 aircraft (see vote No. 180 for related debate); and
- \$638.8 million for the LPD-17 amphibious ship.

Research, development, test, and evaluation authorizations totaling \$36.5 billion will be enacted, including:

- \$3.5 billion for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization; \$950.5 million of that amount will be for National Missile Defense (equal to the amount requested); \$310.4 million of that amount will be for the Navy Theater-Wide (Upper Tier) Missile Defense Program; \$501 million of that amount will be for the Theater High Altitude Aerial Defense (THAAD) Program;
 - \$1.582 billion for F-22 tactical fighter engineering and manufacturing development (EMD); and
 - \$0 for the Dark Star unmanned aerial vehicle program (UAV).

Recommended active duty end-strength: 1,395,578 (a decrease of 35,801), as follows: Army, 480,000; Navy, 372,696; Air Force, 370,882; and Marine Corps, 172,000.

(See other side)

	YEAS (88)				NAYS (4)		NOT VOTING (8)	
		nocrats Repu	Republicans	Democrats (4 or 10%)	Republicans Democrats			
		(36 or 90%)			(0 or 0%)	(3)	(5)	
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brownback Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Collins Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Enzi Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel	Hatch Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Snowe Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Feinstein Ford Graham Hollings Inouye Johnson	Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Landrieu Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Sarbanes Torricelli		Bumpers Feingold Harkin Wellstone	Hutchinson-4 Roth-2 Specter-3 EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	ily Absent nced Yea nced Nay Yea	

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Recommended selected reserve end strengths: 883,094 (a decrease of 12,165), as follows: Army National Guard, 357,000; Army Reserve, 208,000; Naval Reserve, 90,843; Marine Corps Reserve, 40,018; Air National Guard, 106,991; Air Force Reserve, 72,242; and Coast Guard Reserve, 8,000.

Key miscellaneous provisions include the following:

- a 3.6 percent pay raise will be authorized effective January 1, 1999;
- the total military construction budget will be \$8.48 billion (a \$700 million decrease, and \$700 million more than requested);
- \$11.9 billion will be authorized for atomic energy defense activities;
- certain strategic delivery systems will not be retired unless START II enters into force;
- each new Administration will conduct a quadrennial defense review;
- the Federal Government will keep and publish a list of Chinese military-owned companies operating in the United States, and the President will be given expanded authority to act against those companies, if warranted (see vote No. 136);
- it is the sense of Congress that United States ground forces should not remain in Bosnia indefinitely (see vote No. 170; for related debate, see vote No. 171);
- a moratorium will be placed on changes in military services' gender-related polices and practices (see vote No. 172; for related debate, see vote No.180);
- the President's ability to close military bases without congressional approval will be restricted (see vote No. 174); a new round of base closures will not be authorized in this bill;
- due to a filibuster by Democrats, amendments to impose very limited sanctions on China for its forced abortion and sterilization policies and for its many other human rights abuses were withdrawn (see vote Nos. 167-168);
- the ban on performing abortions on demand at overseas military facilities will be retained (for related debate, see vote No. 176);
 - training facilities at Mountain Home Air Base will be expanded (for related debate, see vote No. 177);
 - the Customs Service will monitor and report on imported products made with slave or indentured labor;
- when the President requests funds for a contingency operation involving 500 or more members of the Armed Forces, he will be required to report on the specific objectives and the specific end date or terms for ending the operation based on those objectives;
- it is the sense of the Senate that the Senate condemns the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and favors sanctions against those countries;
 - the President will be allowed to waive the anti-personnel landmine moratorium scheduled to go into effect February 12, 1999;
 - the amount authorized for Radio Free Asia will be increased substantially;
 - Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship winners will be allowed to attend the participating schools of their choice;
 - the Secretary of Energy will select, by December 31, 1998, the technology that will be used for tritium production; and
- Senators who inform the leadership of their intention to object to the consideration of a motion or matter will be required to disclose that objection, or "hold," in the Congressional Record within 2 session days.

Those favoring final passage contended:

Senator Strom Thurmond was commissioned as a reserve second lieutenant of infantry in 1924. He served with great distinction with the First Army in the European Theater of Operations during World War II, landing in Normandy in a glider with the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day (he had received an exemption for his age and had resigned as a circuit court judge in order to be able to serve in combat). He was transferred to the Pacific Theater of Operations at the end of the war in Europe and was serving in the Philippines when Japan surrendered. In 1954, he was promoted to brigadier general in the United States Army Reserve, and was promoted to major general in 1959. He transferred to the Retired Reserve on January 1, 1965, after 36 years of commissioned service. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star medal with "V" device, the Belgian Cross of the Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. He has been a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959, and has served as Chairman since 1995. Senator Thurmond, as officer and legislator, has made matchless contributions to the national security of the United States that in duration and in quality are unique. After this year, he will step down as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, but will remain an active member of the Committee. This authorization bill, the last that will be passed under the chairmanship of Senator Thurmond, has been crafted with great bipartisanship. Numerous contentious issues were resolved between the parties and between Congress and the Administration before the bill reached the floor. We are confident that it will pass with strong bipartisan support, and are delighted that an amendment has been adopted to name it in honor of Senator Thurmond.